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New Books.

THE CRUEL SIDE OF WAR. With the Army of the Potomac. By Katherine Prescott Wormeley. Cloth, 210 pages. Boston: Roberts Brothers.

This book, beautifully bound and printed in large type, consists of letters written by Katherine Prescott Wormeley from the headquarters of the United States Sanitary Commission during the peninsular campaign in Virginia in 1862. The letters were first published under the title, "The Other Side of War." In the present edition the title has been changed to "The Cruel Side of War," which is more intelligible, if not quite so unique.

The author does not attempt to give the general work of the Sanitary Commission, but sets forth in a personal record of its earlier labors the story, not elsewhere told, of how it began, and under what circumstances it first carried on its heroic work.

The letters are written with great naturalness and simplicity. In the earlier ones, there is a certain freshness and gayety. As time goes on, however, and the author finds herself in the sad, dreary work of assisting in caring for the innumerable sick and wounded, in spite of her efforts to "put away all feeling," sadness and agony of spirit force themselves into her writing. While she feels that, owing to the greater care of the wounded, "war is not as dreadful as it once was," yet "it is overwhelming to think of" its awful ravages. She sees "the worst, short of the actual battlefield, that there is to see." She contemplates a great battle with a "nightmare feeling." But one must read the letters through in order to feel the full force of the terrible tragedy through which she with others was passing, and the heroic and self-denying efforts of the men and women who were doing everything but the impossible to make the cruel side of war less cruel.

The "Cruel Side of War" was not written as a peace book, but no one who has been dazzled by the glamour of war can read it without having some of the scales fall from his eyes.

SOME OF NEW YORK'S "400." By A. O. C. Boston: The American Humane Education Society. Paper, 194 pages.

This is the story which won the highest prize offered by the American

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Two Ways of Looking at Things.

"It is a pity that more of us cannot cultivate the two-fold way of looking at things," writes Edward W. Bok in the *June Ladies' Home Journal*. "There would be less friction in life if we did,

and sweeter sympathy, kinder understanding, and broader and fuller living. The fact is that we never reach the dignity of true living unless we do learn this all-important lesson. And that it may be cultivated admits of no doubt. It is simply a question of schooling ourselves not to condemn generally what individually does not happen to be to our taste. If, for example, we prefer brown as a color there is no reason on earth why we should condemn the taste of anyone who preferred to wear green. What the vast majority of us need is to be a little more self-poised, more judicial, more willing to see good in the tastes of others, although they do not please our own particular fancies. If we all thought alike, read the same books, saw the same plays, wore the same colors, this would be an exceedingly uninteresting world.